

Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) A draw frame for drafting a sliver running therethrough, comprising
 - (a) a drafting unit ~~having~~ comprising a plurality of roll assemblies spaced from one another in a direction of sliver advance; one of said roll assemblies being an output roll assembly situated at a downstream end of said drafting unit as viewed in said direction of sliver advance;
 - (b) a sliver guide disposed downstream of said output roll assembly; said sliver guide having an inlet opening and an outlet opening;
 - (c) a sliver trumpet disposed downstream of said sliver guide; said sliver passing through said sliver guide and said sliver trumpet;
 - (d) an electronic camera arranged to capture images of the sliver at a location situated downstream of said output roll assembly and upstream of said sliver trumpet;
 - (e) an electronic image evaluating unit connected to said camera for receiving image signals therefrom;
 - (f) an electronic machine control device connected to said electronic image evaluating unit; and
 - (g) a closed circuit, including said electronic machine control device and said electronic image evaluating unit, wherein said electronic machine control device utilizes results of said electronic image evaluating unit via said closed circuit to control and optimize ~~parameters of a drafting process via said closed circuit, said parameters comprising~~ at least one of speed and friction parameters of at least one of the plurality of roll assemblies ~~the sliver~~.

2. (original) The draw frame as defined in claim 1, wherein said location is situated between said output roll assembly and said inlet opening of said sliver guide.

3. (original) The draw frame as defined in claim 1, wherein said location is situated between said inlet and said outlet of said sliver guide.

4. (original) The draw frame as defined in claim 1, wherein said location is situated between said output roll assembly and said inlet opening of said sliver trumpet.

5. (original) The draw frame as defined in claim 1, wherein said location is situated between said output roll assembly and said inlet opening of said sliver guide; the sliver being unsupported between said output roll assembly and said inlet opening of said sliver guide.

6. (canceled)

7. (original) The draw frame as defined in claim 1, further comprising means for moving said camera transversely to said direction of sliver advance.

8. (previously presented) The draw frame as defined in claim 1, wherein said electronic

machine control device connected to said electronic image evaluating unit comprises a computer and a microprocessor.

9. (canceled)

10. (original) The draw frame as defined in claim 1, wherein said camera is a CCD-camera.

11. (original) The draw frame as defined in claim 1, wherein said camera has a picture taking axis oriented perpendicularly to said direction of sliver advance.

12. (original) The draw frame as defined in claim 1, wherein said camera is pivotal in a plane oriented perpendicularly to said direction of sliver advance.

13. (original) The draw frame as defined in claim 1, further comprising sliver-illuminating light sources disposed on either side of the sliver at said location for capturing pictures with said camera in transmitted and reflected light.

14. (previously presented) The draw frame as defined in claim 1, wherein said electronic machine control device includes a memory for storing therein evaluated measuring results derived from images taken by said camera.

15. (original) The draw frame as defined in claim 1, wherein said camera is a line camera.

16. (original) The draw frame as defined in claim 1, wherein said camera is a diode matrix camera.

17. (new) The draw frame as defined in claim 1, wherein the sliver guide comprises a top wall including a top light transmitting window, and a bottom wall including a bottom light transmitting window, wherein the electronic camera is arranged to capture images of the sliver through at least one of the light transmitting windows.

18. (new) The draw frame as defined in claim 17, wherein the electronic camera is directed toward the top light transmitting window.

19. (new) The draw frame as defined in claim 18, further comprising at least one light emitting diode located adjacent the top light transmitting window and arranged to direct light toward the top light transmitting window.

20. (new) The draw frame as defined in claim 19, further comprising at least one additional light emitting diode located adjacent the bottom light transmitting window and arranged to direct

light toward the bottom light transmitting window.